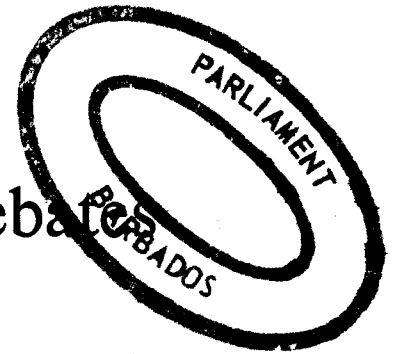


THE

House of Assembly Debates



(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1971-76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 18th January, 1972

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Mr. C. L. BOLDEN, LL.B.; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); Hon. P. M. GREAVES, B.A., (Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance); Mr. A. MORRISON; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A., (Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

Mrs. EASTMOND entered the Chamber and took her seat.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LETTER re DEATH OF SIR GRANTLEY ADAMS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have a letter from the Clerk of the Honourable House of Assembly of St. Vincent which reads as follows:

22nd December, 1971.

"Dear Colleague:

The House of Assembly of St. Vincent at its first Sitting after the death of the late

Sir Grantley Adams, paid tribute to this distinguished West Indian.

The House recalled the outstanding contribution Sir Grantley Adams made to Barbados and to the West Indies. He was the first Premier of Barbados and the only Prime Minister of the defunct West Indian Federation.

The House noted that Sir Grantley, an eminent Barrister-at-Law, made his contribution to his native Barbados and to the West Indies as a whole, at a time when public opinion in these islands was not as well informed, not as progressive, not as tolerant towards the social, political and economic movement as is found today. He made his contribution at a time when obstacles, which confront politicians of today in the march towards nation building, were much greater.

In his passing, the West Indies has lost a Statesman and citizen. When the time comes for history to recall the names of those who have laid the foundations for a progressive West Indian Nation, Sir Grantley's name will stand high on the list.

The House directed that a suitable letter be forwarded to the Government of Barbados expressing its condolences in the loss of this distinguished Barbadian and that these sentiments be also conveyed to Sir Grantley's wife and son.

The Premier, Honourable R. Milton Cato, a former member of the House of Representatives of the defunct Federation, the Honourable E. T. Joshua, Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable A. T. Warner, Q.C., Attorney General, the Honourable E. A. C. Hughes, a Senator in the defunct Federation and the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Honourable C. St. C. Dacon,

himself a former Civil Servant in the Federation, paid tribute to Sir Grantley.

The House stood in one minute silence as a mark of respect.

Yours faithfully,
(signed) OWEN CUFFY
OWEN CUFFY,
Clerk of the House.

The Clerk,
House of Assembly,
Bridgetown
BARBADOS."

I am pleased to inform all hon. members that the sentiments expressed in this letter will be conveyed to Lady Adams and also to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

CARD FROM LADY ADAMS AND FAMILY *re*
DEATH OF SIR GRANTLEY ADAMS

Mr. SPEAKER: I also have a card from Lady Adams and family which reads as follows:

"Lady Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Adams; Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Bishop and the Adams family thank you for your very kind expression of sympathy on the death of Sir Grantley Adams."

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members, the Minutes for the Meeting of the 23rd November, 1971, are before you for confirmation. If there are no objections, I take it that the Minutes of the 23rd November, 1971, are duly confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following papers:

On behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister,

The Civil Establishment (Part-time Officers) (Amendment) Order 1972.

On behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance,

The Customs Duties (Knitted Textiles Ltd.) Order, 1971.

The Customs Duties (Armstrong Manufacturing Limited) Order, 1971.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for nine months ended 31st December, 1971.

Mr. ADAMS and Mr. HINDS entered the Chamber and took their seats.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to move the passing of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$42,940 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1971-72, Part I Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1971-72 No. 23, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

During the course of this Sitting, the Hon. Leader of the House will ask leave of this Honourable Chamber to pass this Resolution in all its stages.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to grant the sum of \$280,844 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1971-72, Part I Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1971-72 No. 24, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also, on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Part-time Officers) (Amendment) Order, 1971.

Also, on behalf of the same hon. member, I beg to give notice of a Resolution fixing the remuneration and allowances payable to Jurors.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the lease of land at Seawell Airport to the First National City Bank.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of a Bill to make provision with a view to ratification on behalf of Barbados of the Convention on Offences and certain other Acts Committed on board Aircraft Signed at Tokyo on the 14th September, 1963 and to give effect to certain provisions relating to piracy of the Convention on the High Seas signed at Geneva on the 29th April, 1958 and for connected purposes.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:

A Bill to amend the Labour Department Act 1943.

A Bill to amend the Wages Council Act 1955.

A Bill to amend the Factories Act 1956, and

A Bill to amend the Quarries Act, 1963.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works has intimated, I am asking for leave to deal with the Resolution to grant the sum of \$42,940 out of the Consolidated Fund in all of its stages today. Copies of this Resolution have been circulated to hon. members, and I think that hon. members will agree to this request.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are there any objections to leave being granted?

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture has been kind enough to deal with certain aspects of a Resolution for \$42,000. Is this the same one?

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no Resolution for \$42,000. There is a Resolution for \$42,940.

Mr. ADAMS: There is no objection to that. 2.40 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member was listening to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, but it is in respect of this same Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no objection, leave is granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I would like with your permission at the appropriate time to give an interim report on the Debates Committee and the matters which were dealt with.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW entered the Chamber and took his seat.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, a Bill to

make provision with a view to ratification on behalf of Barbados of the Convention on Offences and certain other Acts Committed on board Aircraft Signed at Tokyo on the 14th September, 1963 and to give effect to certain provisions relating to piracy of the Convention on the High Seas signed at Geneva on the 29th April, 1958 and for connected purposes, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, a Bill to amend the Labour Department Act, 1943, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, a Bill to amend the Wages Council Act, 1955, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, a Bill to amend the Factories Act, 1956, was read a first time.

Mr. WALCOTT entered the Chamber and took his seat.

On the motion of Hon. P. M. GREAVES, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, a Bill to amend the Quarries Act, 1963, was read a first time.

RESOLUTION RE THE LATE DANIEL FRANCIS BLACKETT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, before the business of the House is commenced, it is my sad duty and privilege to pay tribute to the work and memory of our late colleague and friend in the person of Daniel Francis Blackett, a former member of Parliament and a well-known publisher when we think of "The Torch", and real estate broker.

Dan, as he was popularly known, after receiving a sound education in his native land of Barbados, spent many of his early years in New York and other parts of the U.S.A. It was during his sojourn in the U.S.A. that the late Daniel F. Blackett first became involved in the field of politics and received wide knowledge and experience in the American system of politics. I can recall, Sir, his speaking of Tammany Hall tactics and such things as were then prevalent in American politics at the time.

On his return to Barbados, he quickly joined the Democratic League and was one of the late Dr. Charles Duncan O'Neale's most ardent

supporters along of course with many others, for example, the Hon. H. A. Vaughan, a former Barbados Ambassador to the United Nations among others. It is true to state that the late Daniel F. Blackett always had the welfare and interest of the masses at heart, and his association with the late Dr. O'Neale served him in good stead. Later he was a foundation member of the Barbados Progressive League along with the late Mr. C. A. Brathwaite, M.C.P., the late Dr. Hugh Gordon Cummins, M.D., M.P., the late J. A. Martineau, J.P., Dr. Leonard Shorey, W.A. Crawford, M.P., and many others including your humble servant who served as General Secretary from its inception in 1938 to 1942.

The late Daniel F. Blackett served as a member of this House of Assembly from 1942 to 1946 for the parish of St. Thomas, and I can well remember him making one of the most lengthy speeches in the House when he spoke for two days, approximately twelve hours on a matter affecting the sale of land in lots. I think it was a matter in connection with the buying of Carrington Village by the Progressive Bank. Dan was a very astute and able politician, and I know, Sir, that his passing will create a breach which will not be filled.

I beg to move that this House pass a Resolution of condolence and that the Resolution be forwarded to his widow and son.

I will try and get ready the terms of the Resolution.

Mr. BOLDEN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, although I was not personally acquainted in any great depths with the late Daniel Francis Blackett, I have known of his name and his political career, I suppose, from my earliest childhood, and I occupied the seat of senior member for St. Thomas which he once occupied, and as I am now the only member for St. Thomas, I suppose I am the successor. I may assure hon. members that his name has not been forgotten in the politics of St. Thomas. Even today when the old politicians of the parish and indeed some of the not so old ones reminisce, they can tell you about Dan Blackett.

2.50 p.m.

Indeed I remember during the last campaign canvassing at one of the plantation houses and spending an hour listening to how Dan Blackett won his seat for the first time in the 1942 election, I think it then was. I remember the first

issue of the Torch newspaper, and I wonder if it is generally known that the paper of my own political party was intended to be called the Torch but Mr. Blackett got in his two weeks earlier and this is how the Beacon came about. Mr. Blackett was one of those members who, whichever political direction they subsequently took, represented the first impact of democratic politics in the countryside of this Island. Persons interested in breaking down the old political system went into the distant parishes of this Island and fought with varying degrees of success against the system of plantocracy, and it is to Mr. Blackett's credit that he was successful in breaking it in St. Thomas in a way it was never since restored. St. Thomas has always returned progressive candidates of one or other of the Labour Parties over the last 30 years. Both sides of the House, I think, whether or not they belong to the Party to which Mr. Blackett gave his allegiance in later years, regret his passing and will be happy to join in the Resolution which the Hon. Leader of the House is at present preparing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Members of the House will please signify their assent by standing for a moment's silence.

Members then stood for a minute's silence.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I have prepared the terms of this Resolution as follows:

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House extend its sympathy and condolence to the widow and son of the late Daniel Francis Blackett, a former member of the House, who died recently in this Island."

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, before the business of the House proceeds, I had to look at the position of the Mace because I was not sure whether the House was in session, and I do not think we can allow so auspicious an occasion to pass unrecorded unless we take formal note of the wind of change which has swept over the Speaker's Chair. I see no rule in Erskine May's whereby the Speaker should be inflicted with a wig and a black gown, and I should like to congratulate Your Honour on the step which you have taken towards emancipation.

Mr. SPEAKER: I see also that the winds of change have swept not only over the Speaker's Chair but also on the Clerk's table, and as the Hon. Prime Minister so often says, there is a time for everything and this time has now come.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders 5, 14, 16, 18, 19, 40 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting, subject as is usually the case to any urgent matter which the Opposition may wish to deal with. This is being done to protect the rights of the Opposition.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, we are not objecting, but if I may respectfully point out, it is not really the rights of the Opposition it is the rights of the Private Members and I am quite sure that the Leader of the House will have this cleared.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, there is only one Order under Government Business and I ask leave to deal with it now, there being no other Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Leave is granted.

RESOLUTION RE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (TEACHERS) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDER, 1971

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: This is the Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1971 which was made by me on the December, 1971. The background to this, Mr. Speaker, is that after much discussion the Whitley Council, both the staff side and the civil side, agreed to the request of the Association that the qualification bar in the teachers' salary scale should be removed. The salary scale is as follows:

\$1,680 x 120 - 2,520 x 180 - 2,700 (Q.B.) 2,880 x 180 - 3,420. This qualification bar was inserted in the teachers' salary scale so that teachers who passed Certificate B of the Ministry of Education could enter Erdiston College afterwards; there is no similar bar in the salary scale for the same grade of teacher in Secondary Schools and Certificate B is no longer a requirement for entry to Erdiston College, so it is felt that this bar tends to deter those persons who would normally wish to take up teaching as a career. We hope that its removal will cause those with the necessary qualifications to enter the teaching service and will bring the teachers' salaries in line with those of clerical officers where similar requirements are necessary for appointment.

This Resolution therefore seeks to remove the qualification bar under Schedule A to the Order of 1969, the necessary amendment being made on 9th December, 1971. I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.
3.00 p.m.

I, therefore, beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution, we believe, is a well-intentioned one. Its purpose is to encourage recruits to enter the Teaching Service and to have those recruited remain there, but, in removing this Qualification Bar, we must ask if this is all that is absolutely necessary in the present setting to retain these teachers. Formerly, Sir, as has been pointed out, I think one had to have 5 G.C.E. O levels or the equivalent to enter Erdiston, but with the introduction of the Pre-Erdiston Course, which is a sort of crash programme, the Teaching Service has seen coming out from Erdiston something like the Christmas turkey — people who were just stuffed or crammed for the occasion. I am sure that the Minister of Education would hardly try to deny that Head Teachers in some of the schools are today still grappling with the problem where some of these teachers, who are supposed to be considered as qualified, when they appear before a class of children to teach that class how to multiply, for instance, 36 by 8, they teach the children 8 by 6 are 48 and they set down 48; 8 by 3 are 24 and they set down 24 and get 2448 as the answer. The Minister of Education knows about this. I have good reason for saying that he knows about this.

Now, we see and we know that the Qualification Bar means an increment, and we on this side are in favour of increased pay for

teachers in any of our schools in this Island. We support that, but what we want to be satisfied about is that, at every step the Government is taking, its ultimate aim will not be to devalue education but to improve it. We want to know that we are having teachers coming out from Erdiston not only with certificates which will in themselves increase the salaries of the teachers, but that they know what to teach and how to teach it. That is very, very important.

Sir, we know that certificate B, to which the hon. member for St. John referred earlier, is in two parts: Part I and Part II. Part II deals with the professional methods, principles and so on, but one of the tragedies, if we might call it so, happens to be that immediately after World War II a decision was taken to permit those persons seeking to enter the Service who have done war service to proceed to do Part II of certificate B without doing Part I. As a result of that, Sir, you still have in our Teaching Service today some teachers who have reached as near to the top as possible but have never yet passed the preliminary examination in either Arithmetic or English. These are known facts in our Teaching Service today, Sir. Our prime concern must be, Mr. Speaker, how are we to get over that problem?

We support the removal of the Qualification Bar, because we, too, want to encourage people to enter the Service. But are we doing all that is necessary today by merely removing the Qualification Bar? Are we raising our standards which we see and know have been showing a very steady decline in very recent years?

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the amendment that has been proposed, but I would like to say that, looking at the salary scale for teachers, I think it is a fundamental problem in Barbados. I am not concerned with what has been stated about teachers being incapable of doing the job of teaching, because I have been hearing that from the time I was a school boy and that is over 40 years ago. All past generations seem to think that they had a better education system than the present. When I was a boy the teachers were saying that the teachers then were not as good as the teachers before, and, now that I am far from a school boy, I am hearing that the teachers today are not as good as the teachers were when I was a boy. Unfortunately, the children seem to be brighter, because the world is moving on and the things some people can do today our predecessors were unable to do.

3.10 p.m.

I do not subscribe fully to the idea that there were idiots and dunces in all generations,

but I do not think that the fault that teachers cannot add or multiply as they should is anything to do with the system, not that I am a believer in the present-day education system. I heard someone last night praising the glories of the system. I am not enamoured about the present educational system because it is snobbish and is not related to the realities of our time, and it is still a system that is more suitable for 1895 than for the end of this century, and the sooner we get down to remodelling and having a complete metamorphosis in our educational system, the better, otherwise we will be the problem of the twenty-first century.

What worries me, Sir, is the salaries in themselves. I am not representing the teachers, but it is difficult for me and I believe for any member of this Assembly to sit down with any conscience and underwrite a salary of \$140 for a teacher rising to a maximum of \$285 per month. Now I am very brutal about this. I do not see how any member of this Chamber can willingly accept the salary that is given to a member of this Assembly and the allowances, and with a clear conscience go to the Treasury and draw them and then agree to a maximum salary for a qualified teacher of \$285 a month. It is most illogical. It is true, you may say, there are more teachers than members of the House of Assembly, and I am not in any way comparing the salaries of the House of Assembly with those of the teachers, but from the point of view of looking at money, I would ask how you can expect to have a teaching service in Barbados based on a salary of less than \$35 a week to begin with and it cannot reach \$75 a week as a maximum for qualified teachers. You get what you pay for, and you must begin to look at whom you are going to attract and retain as a teacher in Barbados at a salary of \$140 a month. If these are the people you expect to fill your posts in the primary schools, you are going to get trash. I feel very strongly on this.

I am not representing teachers. If I were representing teachers, I would have a very easy case to represent and justify for a substantial increase, but the time has come when the whole structure of the teaching service and teachers' qualifications must be looked at. Let us be quite frank. Unless you have a real surplus of people with "O" level subjects these people will not enter the teaching service and even if you had such a surplus it would not be fair to them to exploit the surplus, because under the present circumstances you are going to get any boy or girl with five "O" level subjects who can do better than this, and there would have to be a real love and dedication for teaching, and I

cannot see that a love and dedication for education will supercede the stark understanding that a little more money can do a lot for people in this present life time.

The origin of education is that it was associated with the church, and the history of education is that people were willing to teach for free. Those days are over. What you have today is free education, but not free teaching, and I think the time has come when we should not mistake our prefixes and think that when we talk about "free", we mean free teaching. Free teaching means that you have to pay the teachers. These are people who have been exploited for many years, and I think the Minister has a real responsibility. I would not like to exchange with him because he has a lot of teachers to pay and schools to administer, and I should like to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Education might as well face this bold task that Barbados is 166 square miles, and he should get down to the task of revamping the concept of schools and schools location, and these 126 microscopic buildings punctuated throughout this Island and called schools with 189 children and a schoolmaster getting a little more if he can get a higher number in the schools must go, and we must build proper schools and stop this idea that a school must be on your doorstep. It is better to build big schools and transport the children to them where you would have big classrooms and all the other facilities rather than to have 126 small schools on your doorsteps and have a few children in them. That was all right in 1898 and 1902 but not in this day when you can have school buses to take the children four miles to a school. There is no point in having a school meals system and you are still building schools around every corner, and in a radius of four or five square miles you have 20 schools. My idea is that it is nonsense, it is a waste of money and it is going to be a wastage of your land, and it is time that the education authorities come to the idea of carrying a child three or four miles from where he lives to school in a school bus. Going to school is the work of a child, and you should get children to understand early that that is their work.

The last point I would like to make does not apply to this system, but I hope the Minister of Education will do something about the present system of children going to school. I know that parents like to take their children to school, but with everybody taking children to school at the same time creates a blocking of the streets by motor cars and this happens because children cannot walk to school anymore. We are creating a state of invalid children who cannot walk,

because parents feel they must carry the children to the doorstep if not they would not learn. Some members say this is a sign of affluence, but I feel that affluence should not supercede commonsense. I feel that some of these children would do well if they are taught that a school is somewhere you can walk to if it is within normal distance. I know that some parents like to see the children get to school safely, but I would like to see that some areas become areas for children to walk in getting to school and you reduce this congestion of the traffic. I would like to see points like Jemmotts Lane and Collymore Rock where schools are located so controlled that children can be left at the bottom of the streets and the parents can go about their business. Some of these places should be closed to traffic so that the children can walk to school in safety rather than having traffic blocks that we find every day as a result of parents feeling that it is a divine dispensation for them to take the children right to the school.

3.20 p.m.

I have some grand children whose parents feel they should take their children in this manner and I do not subscribe to it, but everybody wants to get into the style. I hope that the Minister will look into this so that some of this congestion can be relieved on the city streets at school hours.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to deal briefly with some of the points made during this debate. I would like first of all to thank the hon. member for St. Peter and the hon. member for St. Michael West for the support they gave this Resolution which is a very simple one. During this debate so far a few points have been raised to which I would like to turn my attention, and the first one concerns the point made by the hon. member for St. Michael West who states that he does not think it right that qualified teachers should be paid a starting salary of \$140. In fact, the starting salary of a \$140 is not the starting salary of qualified teachers, a qualified teacher has a starting salary of \$300 per month proceeding to a maximum of \$520 per month. That is the salary for a qualified teacher, and according to the Civil Establishment (Teachers) Order of 1969, a qualified teacher means a person who holds a certificate or diploma of training recognised by the Minister, and generally this refers to persons who have graduated from Erdiston Teachers' Training College after the regular two-year programme, so I think the hon. member has put forward his case on false premises. The starting salary of \$140 refers to the young entrant to the service who comes in with a minimum of one subject. The hon. member for St. Peter may say that that subject might not be mathematics or arithmetic...

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, I only said a teacher, I did not say a qualified teacher.

Mr. SPEAKER: No point of order.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, but I was making notes while the speeches were made and I was speaking from them. The starting salary is \$140 for a teacher with one subject and as he acquires additional subjects he can get increments up to, I believe, a maximum of nine within the salary scale, but I do not think there is much point spending time on this particular aspect of the matter. The question of salary scales no doubt is one which the teachers themselves will have ideas on when the next row for a salaries revision takes place.

I would, however, like to deal with what may be a misunderstanding in the minds of some members, certainly the member for St. Peter as it appeared to me, in which he was suggesting, I believe, that the teacher who comes out of what is commonly called the pre-Erdiston course, what we formerly called the preliminary in-service teacher training certificate, is considered as a qualified teacher. The aim of this particular course is to give the young teacher who comes into the profession basic information about methods of teaching, about classroom activities and the management of classrooms, about preparation of lessons, and generally to give him some basic elements of the practice of teaching in order that in his very early years he will be able to approach the business of teaching in a more informed manner and will be more helpful to the children who are committed to his charge. We do not consider this as the end of training because there is still the regular two-year training programme, and the teacher having graduated from the preliminary in-service teacher training programme will then in due course be expected to enroll in the two-year training programme, and we expect that this preliminary course will in fact become a prerequisite for entry into the regular two-year programme at Erdiston.

I thought I would just make that clear, that this is not a substitute for the regular two-year training programme at Erdiston, it is an introduction to the business of teaching in order to help particularly the young entrant to the service in the business of teaching. The hon. member for St. Peter was quite insistent in pointing out that he knows about teachers who arrive at certain mathematical answers and so on, and I myself at this particular moment cannot say that I am familiar with the cases to which he has referred. I must also refute this claim about teachers coming out like Christmas turkeys and I

believe the explanation which I have given would explain why in fact we have this preliminary course going, and that the intention is not to present any turkeys to the children in the classroom.

I do not think there are any other points which I need take up which relate to the removal of the bar that I would wish to deal with at this particular time. I have taken note of the comments which have been made, and I would just like to say generally that we must not assume that no attempts have been made or are being made to revamp the educational system. I think it is known in fact that attempts have been made to revamp this system and make it more suitable to the needs of this century and the century to come, but I need not deal with that at this particular moment, this Resolution dealing with the removal of the qualification bar in the teachers' scale does not include this, and I am happy for the support with which this particular Resolution has met.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1971-72 No. 23

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Resolution.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.
3.30 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution for the sum of \$42,940 affects three Ministries: the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Communications and Works. My main function in this Resolution and the fact that I am introducing it is that it is a supplementary for a vote which falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Communications and Works; so I shall leave the details of the Resolution and the main purposes of it to be dealt with by the Hon. Minister the member for St. Andrew. But the purpose of this sum of money is to alter or convert a room now used as a feed-store adjoining the present Veterinary Diagnostic

Laboratory into a Leptospirosis Laboratory and a mill-room and chemical store for the Animal Nutrition Unit and also a Laboratory for Brucellosis.

I think we all agree that rats in this country have been causing untold harm not only to the crops, but also to the food stored in the city and are also a very serious source of possible plague both to man and beast, and the Government is certainly leaving no stone unturned to eradicate this possible source of disease. I also think hon. members are well aware that only a few weeks ago a joint venture by the Ministries of Agriculture and Health, with the assistance of the World Health Organisation and the Pan American Health Organisation, started a seminar not only to identify, but to devise more effective means of dealing with this disease. The Government is certainly leaving no stone unturned.

Of course, the eradication of this disease in the country depends not only on the Government, but on householders, merchants and almost every citizen in the community so long as they are aware of the danger of this disease. I think we all know that one of the main hiding places for rats is the outmoded warehouses that merchants have in this community with wooden floors, and the sooner an attempt is made to make them concrete every store-room in this town and this country the better it will be for the community. These store-rooms are sources of danger, because food for human consumption is stored in them. Without going into statistics, I should like to say that a rat is a fast breeder and its population increase more than rabbits or human beings. Consequently, the eradication of this disease depends on every householder in this country and not only on the Government. We are leaving no stone unturned to bring home to people that the rats in this community are a danger to the health of the community.

In view of the acceptance, I think, by the entire House of the importance of these two laboratories, I will deal with the aspect of the matter not so much in respect of the animals. It has been discovered that this disease is spreading to animals, but I shall leave that aspect of the matter to my Hon. Colleague the Minister of Agriculture. Having been convinced of that, I do not think this Honourable House will grudge the passing of a sum of money which will establish the means whereby not only the disease can be identified and diagnosed, but also a possible cure may be more adequately devised. If more details are needed on this question, I think the members of this Government are capable of answering any questions. I am, again, emphasising that this

Government, with the help of international organisations are taking this matter more seriously than house-owners in this country, and we will do everything in our power to eradicate the rats and thereby the source of this disease.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, in seconding the passing of this Resolution, I should like to point out that last year there were some twelve or fourteen deaths in this country from the disease of Leptospirosis. This, by World Health standards, has reached epidemic proportions. The eradication of this disease holds high priority in PAHO and WHO organisations, and it is the concern of all of us. It is also the concern of most of the United Nations organisations, and we have made representation to these organisations for technical assistance and so on.

Now, the disease we are fighting is not only the disease of Leptospirosis, which has an adverse effect on human beings, but it also has even greater adverse affect on animals. We have carried out certain tests in this country to find that of 132 cows tested 55% of them showed that they had been in contact with the Leptospirosis. We have also found out from our recent surveys and experiments that even a greater proportion of animals tested in this country show signs of having come into contact with the virus of Brucellosis. Now, whilst Brucellosis does not affect the human being, it affects the breeding capacity of animals; it affects the milk production of cows, and we have had instances at the Greenland Dairy Farm where a high percentage of the cows were suffering from infertility and a large number of them had to be culled. I am not saying that the infertility rate depended mainly on the increase of Brucellosis, but we can only determine what percentage of infertility has been occasioned through Brucellosis when we have the Laboratory established for carrying out our diagnosis on Brucellosis.

We find, according to statistics or estimates in the agricultural sector, that we are losing almost \$3 million a year in the sugar industry through rat destruction.
3.40 p.m.

The rat population in the country is of great concern not only to the public health officers, not only to the Ministry of Agriculture, but even to those who look after the economy of the Island. We are an agricultural society and depend to a large extent on agriculture. We are aware

that even when you grow potatoes there is a lot of destruction by rats. The mainstay of our economy, sugar cane, is eaten by rats, and even the blades of the canes damaged by rats can spread the disease of Leptospirosis and Brucellosis in animals, and there is a recommendation that in rat-invested areas the tops of the canes ought not to be fed to animals but should be burnt. Of course, in these days the people are not allowing us to get many of the tops to burn because they are burning them themselves, and whilst they are doing damage to the economy of the country because of un-controlled burning, they have been assisting us in reducing the incidence of Leptospirosis.

Now this is not only in respect of cows, but let us take pigs. Recently farmers have been crying out about the high rate of mortality in their young pigs. The sows would breed, but then there is a shortage of milk from the sows, and my information from the experts who carried out a survey within the last six months here is that Brucellosis reduces the capacity of the sows to produce milk, and in many instances young pigs are dying because of the shortage of milk from the mothers. So we have a complex problem which stems from the high incidence of rats in the country.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think it is necessary for me to speak at length, having outlined in brief detail, the problems with which we are faced in the country with respect to rodents. I may state however that by now and weekend I will be able to give in full detail what proposals my Ministry has for the control and eradication of rats. We have had a programme drawn up and we have been assured of technical assistance from some of the United Nations Foundation in fighting this problem. In order to do a comprehensive and satisfactory job and to be able to diagnose the diseases and the areas of the diseases, we will have to have laboratory facilities. We have started to set traps to catch rats for these laboratory tests, and in one building within a few days we have been able to catch something like a dozen live rats, and these rats will be used in the laboratory. The Ministry of Health which is responsible for the rat control and extermination in the urban area has its work cut out; the Ministry of Communications has to deal with the high rat population in the warehouses and so on, and the Ministry of Health is leaving no stone unturned to see that proper bins are provided and that the standard of public health is maintained in the restaurants, warehouses and stores in Bridgetown.

Now the position is that this accelerated programme is not being met with pleasure by

some of the operators of stores, restaurants and so on, but we are warning them that we are very serious about this programme, and whilst we do not mind unpopularity from that source, we know what we are doing from the point of view of the extermination of these rodents which is in the interest of these people. A rat urinates as he eats. He passes over a bag of feed or a bag of flour and then you eat the flour. From the urine it is likely that you can pick up the virus of Leptospirosis, and we have got to approach this problem very seriously. The Ministry of Health is doing that in the urban area. Now the position is that we seem to have rural rats and urban rats, and in the rural area it is the responsibility of my Ministry to tackle the problem from an agricultural point of view; so the two Ministries are responsible for this. We have had several meetings, and this morning I paid a visit to the markets where we found that the public health people are very concerned about the dumping of garbage. We have in one of the markets restaurants being operated that are not suitable for this type of business. Whilst we do not want to put people out of bread and feel that restaurants are necessary in these areas, we have to see that proper public health standards are met, and I will be able to say something on that in a short while. Even in the butcher stalls we are not satisfied with what is happening, and we are coming up with new proposals for improvements in our markets.

If you go over the Bridge you will find that there are a lot of squatters in the area. What I do not understand is that you find Civil Servants arguing whose responsibility it is. Is this the responsibility of the Ministry of Works because they are squatting in the bus stand? Is it the responsibility of the Ministry of Lands because lands come under the control of that Ministry? But when you think seriously of it, what these people are doing there is buying and selling, and therefore in my opinion it is a market.

3.50 p.m.

A market is not necessarily a building, and you will notice that there was no proper cleaning done in this area, and if people are allowed to throw scraps and ends there and it is not moved daily, here is a harbour for rats, so we have got to take responsibility for these things and see to it that the areas are kept as clean as possible, and I propose providing staff to take care of these areas, to go into certain streets and alleys on that other side of Bridgetown where it is always messy and get it cleaned up. As I said earlier, I will make a statement towards the weekend on what we propose to do on the rat eradication, and as the Minister of Works has quite rightly said, we

will never be able to get rid of the rats unless we have the cooperation of householders, the people who operate restaurants and stores, people who operate small shops, and until proper health standards are met. For my part I will see to it that the agricultural sector give cooperation even if it warrants legislation so to do, and I give this Committee the assurance that with the assistance of the U.N. bodies we shall have this problem controlled in a very short time from now.

I know that my friend, the Leader of the Opposition will get up and say that four years ago he pointed out that the owl was a destroyer of rats and that we should bring some from St. Vincent or one of the islands and let them go in Barbados. I know this is what he will say, but I want to make my point clear. We brought the mongoose to destroy the snakes, the snakes have been destroyed — we will find a small one here and there but I think they are brought in on logs of wood from Guyana or Trinidad or some other place — but the mongoose brought with it the mongoose problems and the mongoose is what we are trying to fight today because the mongoose is a spreader of the very disease which I am asking the House to vote this money to eradicate. I dare say the owl will bring its problems too, and in furtherance of that argument I would like to say this, when your technical advisers advise against something and you go and do it after they give you strong reasons for not doing it, you then find the Opposition speculating and scouting for information. I remember, I think it was last year, we had a situation where some of the very Officers refused to give the Ministers the correct information but they gave it to the Opposition. I was shown some of it by members of the Opposition when we were dealing with the Estimates last year. (Mr. HINDS: That is because they have more confidence in the Opposition than they have in the Government). I am not saying this, it was not that they had more confidence in the other side, I have got to make out a case and I do not think that anybody is competent to tell me how I must make it out, not even the Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would ask the Minister to stick to the Resolution under discussion.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: We have a situation in here that when you get up to speak people tell you what you should not speak on but I am going to speak and no one is going to tell me how I must make out my case. Some of us go a long way and some of us do not go at all, therefore I am making out my case. As long as I do not abuse anybody no Chairman or Speaker will tell me how to make out my case, I do not

want to get into any row with anybody so do not tell me I am straying, all of this has complete relevance with making out my case.

The point I was making and what I anticipated the Leader of the Opposition would get up and say is this, that when the Leader of the Opposition four years ago made a suggestion he cannot say that I did not seek advice on it, I sought the advice of the people who are supposed to advise me. If I refuse to accept the advice of those people for whom I come here yearly and ask this House to vote money to pay I am going to hear somebody running to some member of the Opposition and the Opposition will come in here and tell me that my Chief Technical Officer advised me against doing this and I still did it. Whatever you do as a Minister you find yourself in a vicious circle, and I want to make this point abundantly clear. I want to point out that had he been in my position and he had been advised, and strongly advised, by the people who are supposed to advise him he would have done the same thing. I am not an agriculturist, I am not a doctor, I have not studied and obtained degrees in agriculture, and any time I take action in my Ministry I take it having got full advice, even if it is wrong, from the people whom the Government is paying to advise me. On the question of policy they cannot advise me, policy is mine but when it comes to administration and the technical details, who am I to tell the Chief Agricultural Officer that he is wrong on something when he advises me technically on agriculture, something that he has made a study of?

You have your research men, entomologists, pathologists, economists and all of them who have studied for years to qualify themselves as specialists in their fields. If my agricultural engineer comes to me and tells me that I should not purchase this type of tractor for the Soil Conservation Scheme because it is not the type that should be used in the Scotland District, should I go ahead or should I accept the advice of the person who is paid to advise me technically? The point I am making is that all the hullabaloo which may be made by the Leader of the Opposition on the question of the owl — and I do not care how much he howls this afternoon — the point is I was advised against bringing in owls because I was told that the owls would bring with them their problems. I was further advised that the owl itself would be a carrier of other diseases so let us fight it necessarily without the owl, let us fight the problem with which we are faced today.

4.00 p.m.

Let us fight the problem by soliciting the co-operation of every householder in this

country; let us fight the problem by providing the necessary equipment and so on in order to get rid of this problem; let us fight it by asking the merchants to do something about their warehouses; let us fight the problem even if we have to legislate that they must concrete the floors of their warehouses; let us tell them that they must use zinc around the bases of their warehouses so that the rats cannot get into the warehouses; let us tell the restaurant proprietors that they must get incinerators or something of the sort; let us make this type of provision, but do not let us get here and argue about the owl or anything else, because, as I have pointed out before, these things also have their problems. We brought the mongoose to destroy snakes and they brought their problems. We now have the mongoose problem to tackle today.

I think the time has come when we can sit down like men around the Table and discuss this matter, if the Leader of the Opposition or the Shadow Minister for Agriculture has a suggestion to make. I am not unapproachable, and I always keep my doors open. Two days ago the Leader of the Opposition reminded me that he was going through some papers of the late Sir Grantley Adams and he saw a letter from me. It was a letter in respect of representation made on behalf of a person who had a problem in the market. This took place four or five years ago. He sent the person to me, and I did not only find a solution to the problem, but I wrote and told him what action had been taken.

Now, I want it to be made abundantly clear that I represent the people of Barbados, and, if a member of the Opposition made a suggestion to me, I am not one of those people who would say that he is going to get the kudos for it. I would invite the member to my Ministry to discuss the matter, because I feel that whether or not you are in the Opposition you have a responsibility to the people of this country. The Shadow Minister for Agriculture can testify to the fact that a few months ago he had a problem; he spoke to me about it, and I immediately invited the hon. member for St. Joseph to attend a meeting at my Ministry where we discussed the problem. We discussed his problem in the presence of the Technical Advisers. He can tell you that the Technical Advisers were very strong against the proposal and, after arguing the case, I had to agree with the Technical Advisers. I had called him to the Ministry to hear the representations which had been made, and to this day he has not agreed with the decision. However, he cannot say that I did not go into his case and I did not co-operate with him 100%.

In the final analysis, if I had to choose between accepting the advice of the Leader of the Opposition or the Shadow Minister for Agriculture, who are not technicians in Agriculture, and that of the technicians in the Ministry of Agriculture on questions of technical matters, then I would have to accept the advice of the people who are paid to advise me. I would argue the case with them and, if they satisfied me with their arguments, I would have to accept their advice.

Mr. Chariman, I want to allay the fears in respect of this question of owls. I am mentioning it now, because when I asked the Leader of the Opposition about owls, he said: "If you had allowed the owls to come in, perhaps, you would not have had this problem today." He is in the Opposition now but, perhaps, one of these days he will find himself wearing the same boot I have been wearing and he will have to pay due cognizance to the advice given by his Technical Advisers. If we were to be our own advisers, then we would not come here to ask you to vote money to employ Technical Advisers, we would do all of the work ourselves. I accept full responsibility for the action which had been taken then, and I am accepting full responsibility for any action which is taken now. I want to make it abundantly clear that, so far as technical advice is concerned, I am taking it from those who are paid to advise me.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has made a lot of my speech for me, but there are certain aspects of this matter which have not been fully canvassed. Sir, the rat problem has been worrying Barbadians for a long time. Members of the Party opposite and members of the old Conservative Party should certainly know that even the Hospital had rats before, under the enlightenment of the Barbados Labour Party, it was decided to build a new Hospital to serve the health needs of our nation once and for all. Rats are still there in the old Hospital buildings. Rats are still running through the National Insurance Department and the Education Department as well as other buildings in the compound, and those are buildings which come directly under Government control. A part of the reason is that, no matter what has been said and what campaigns have been mounted in the past showing the rat as a monster, the people have not really ever taken a rat-extermination problem seriously in this country.

Sir, when ten or twelve people out of a few thousand who died each year can die from a rat-borne disease, we could as well be back in the Middle Ages when half of the population in

Germany died from plague borne by rats. No rat-borne disease should be killing people in a small Island like Barbados today, and this is something which the Opposition would have raised in this session because of a very distressing circumstance which was reported to us that somebody had died from Leptospirosis in circumstances that seemed incredible; that rats, in fact, can still infect people with diseases to kill them. You have diseases as viruses and they are difficult to handle, but diseases carried by rats should be eliminated from the killers of mankind once and for all.

Now, there are various ways in which to control rats. Anybody who reads not the technical literature but the non-technical literature such as the News Magazines of the World will know that rats are a problem in every country and a lot of effort has to be brought to bear on them in order to destroy them. Maybe, some hon. members will remember that about fifteen years ago - I am sure the Minister for Home Affairs will recall it - there was a rat-extermination campaign in China. There was a massive adult education programme; persons were told to go out and find rats and kill them, and I think that about three hundred million rats were killed in two years in China. But this was the result of constant propaganda day after day by the Government, and it was aimed at using one of the methods of rat control.

4.10 p.m.

This was a result of constant propaganda day after day by the Government, and it was aimed at using one of the methods of rat control, because there are a lot of methods of control of large animal predators because rats are comparatively large as animal pests of mankind go. You can have predators, you can have mechanical means and poisons, and you can have preventive measures. Preventive measures can often not be successful with rats. Nobody would say let us eliminate rats from the cane fields by cutting down all the canes; nobody except perhaps the Prime Minister who does not want to see the canes anyhow. Nobody would say prevent rats from eating foodstuff in Bridgetown by burning down all the warehouses and ceasing to store foodstuffs. So it is difficult because mankind in his own environment implies certain pests and rats are one of them. Once you create an environment for yourself where you are going to store food and grow certain crops, you create conditions which are as attractive or more attractive to rats as they are to man himself. So you cannot deal too much with preventive measures except mechanical preventive measures such as suggested by the Minister - concrete the

warehouse floors and put zinc around them. I will say a word about that. That does not always work.

Mr. Chairman, you can have predators. That is a Chinese method. The greatest predator upon rats is man. Man can kill more rats more effectively than anything else. The Chinese mobilise manpower to kill their rats. In Barbados it might not be possible to do it to that same extent, but it can still be aimed at. Now this is where the owl comes in. I am going to deal with the owls. I believe that the hon. member for St. Joseph is now technically better informed than I am on the subject. This is where owls and cats come in. The Minister made a joke about cats. Research has recently been done in the United States and it has shown that a part of the reason why the rat problem is increasing in the United States is because cats have become too domesticated and are losing the instinct to slaughter rats, and in Barbados I have seen it with my own eyes within the last twelve months. A kitten came to my house. Within the first few months of its life it used to kill mice for sport. It would go and search out the mice in the fields that still exist in Atlantic Shores - there are still a lot of field mice up there - and kill them for sport. It is now a well-fed older cat and it now knows that if it wants food, it is easier to come and make a noise underneath my bed and I will go and open the fridge and give it some cat food, and it will not kill for hunger, and it has obviously also lost the instinct to kill for sport; and research in the United States is showing that if you can let a cat see another cat kill a rat for sport, running it down and chasing it and then going and looking for another rat to kill for sport, not necessarily for hunger, that the cat can once again become a predator upon rats and control them. You have to make the cat kill the rats. It implies perhaps a slightly more savage cat than people want to keep in their houses. In my childhood I remember we had an exceptionally savage cat; she lived to be over twenty years old. She had bitten every member of the household at one time or another, bit through my finger once nearly I recall, but she was a great rat catcher. She killed rats because she liked killing rats, not because she was hungry.

Now if the merchants in Bridgetown could get accustomed to the idea as merchants do in other countries in the world of keeping a savage rat cat living in the warehouses, tell the watchman he must keep a cat if necessary and see that somebody is there during the day to give the cat such necessary food as it will need, you would find you will drive the rats away from the warehouse, because rats are very responsive to rat

killing methods. I believe rats must be genetic geniuses. Again I would have to call on the Minister of Home Affairs to tell me what makes a rat capable of resisting any known poison that has ever been put out for it, and if it cannot fight it, it learns to recognise it and avoid it. This new metabolistic poisoning system that the rat-catching people in Barbados have been writing about, a breed resistant to wayfaring and the other products is now evolving in the United States, and it was thought it would be impossible to evolve a breed that could resist a poison that worked so insidiously as merely to interrupt the metabolistic processes that the rat itself does not know are going wrong, but it is happening in the United States. I believe that if rats were irradiated with an atomic explosion that a breed of rat resistant to nuclear fall out would evolve, and in the same way rats will learn to avoid a warehouse with cats in it; so that the cats from being a predator would become a preventive method. But that is good because you drive them out into the open.

Now the owls. It was not Tom Adams telling the Minister of Agriculture that it would be a good thing to get owls to kill rats in the country. It was a greater expert than the Chief Agricultural Officer, the Minister of Agriculture or the Leader of the Opposition together giving that advice.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I would like to correct the hon. member that the Minister of Agriculture is not an expert.

Mr. ADAMS: It was a greater expert than the Chief Agricultural Officer. It was Professor James Bond who I believe was regarded as the greatest ornithologist in the world, certainly the greatest ornithologist in the United States, and based upon his observation of the country side in St. Vincent where there are no rats attacking agricultural crops and his knowledge of the habits of the Windward Islands owl, he gave as his considered opinion when he came to Barbados that one dozen pairs of Windward Islands owls released in the southern part of Barbados would wipe out the rat population of the cane fields. That was the considered opinion of Professor James Bond who was then of the University of Philadelphia, the greatest authority on the birds of the West Indies. A copy is available any time. The Chief Agricultural Officer did not even write to Professor Bond to enquire upon what he based it. He depended upon a general article by Sir Selwyn Selwyn-Clarke on the general dangers that have been known for a hundred years of bringing in one predator to deal with another. It is obvious that when you bring in anything that

disturbs your ecology, it may have unforeseen consequences, and Barbados for the longest possible time - it does not take the Chief Agricultural Officer to tell you this, it takes any school text-book - has been held out as an example of a place where you brought in the mongoose to deal with snakes and there were no snakes, and the mongoose became a problem.

Mr. Chairman, you have suggested to me and I believe it is correct that the mongoose was in fact brought into Barbados to deal with rats, not with snakes at all, because the first settlers could not find any snakes in St. Michael. The only snake I have seen in Barbados I have seen in St. Joseph, and I do not believe there could be many people who have seen them. My father told me he once saw one. I do not know if the present hon. member for St. Joseph has ever seen one, but you have to search and live a long time and knock about in the parts of St. Joseph that have woods and damp places before you will see a snake; so it does not seem to me possible that the mongoose could have been brought here to deal with snakes. It is possible it may have been brought here as a pet or to deal with rats. People might bring it in a cage. You never know what people will do. People in Barbados have kept mongooses as pets. I have seen caged mongooses kept as pets in Barbados. The Marquis of Bath in Britain has sixteen or seventeen lions in his park walking about as pets. Goodness knows what his insurance company charges him for the potential danger of the lions jumping over the fence one of these days, but people will do anything in that line.

The mongoose, I have seen somewhere, was in fact brought to deal with rats, but it has come to co-exist with the rats. It has not been any worse a predator than the rats; it probably has been less. I am surprised to hear the mongoose is a carrier of leptospirosis. I am not doubting it, but I am surprised to hear it, because where I live in Christ Church - I wonder if hon. members know this - there are a lot of mongooses living. There is a whole tribe of them living within half a mile of my house, and they are always running across the road and they in fact look quite attractive. You see a little baby mongoose standing up by the side of the road and looking around, and you can see them once a month, and I am sorry to think that they have to be wiped out because I think these small animals sometimes in a crowded island like Barbados add to the general faunal attraction; but that is only by the way. I think the mongoose came, co-existed with the rat; both of them prey perhaps on chickens and eggs, but there is nothing else I have ever heard a mongoose

accused of in Barbados, and to that extent they were pests.
4.20 p.m.

I do not think they were any more of a pest than the rats which would eat the eggs in exactly the same way and whose numbers would outgrow those of the mongoose. The Minister mentioned the entomologists, but what are the entomologists doing now in Barbados? They are looking for pests to control the moth borer, they are bringing in insects from outside to eat the insects in Barbados. In that same Ministry where they tell the Minister he cannot bring in anything from outside because of the problems he might be bringing along.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I do not think it is fair for the hon. member to say that in that Ministry they tell the Minister he cannot bring in anything from outside, because they have not told me I cannot bring in anything from outside, the whole point is that I was advised against bringing in the Windward Island owl. I was not advised against bringing in the various types of flies from India to destroy the parasites which were destroying the canes.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the point is this, I am suggesting to the Minister that the main problem was as was described in an article by Sir Selwyn Clarke who spoke of the danger of bringing in one insect to deal with the other. It is well known that you examine the potentialities of what you are bringing in; why is it the Chief Agricultural Officer could not ask somebody for advice? Why should not the Minister ask the Chief Agricultural Officer if he asked anybody about bringing in the owls? The owl does not prey on chickens, it preys on things running on the ground at night. The Minister told me at the time that I did not know the country and I said perhaps I did not know Dark Hole. Which is better for Barbados, a large scale destruction of rats in an agricultural district - and Mr. Chairman, let us note this carefully, the tests on the Leptospirosis relate to the country rat, there are country rats and town rats I am told, I do not know if tests have been made to see which is more sinister, the trapping that is going on now will presumably show whether the country rats carry more disease than the town rats, but all this is about cows that have been infected with Leptospirosis and to the best of my knowledge there are no cows in Bridgetown therefore it is the country rat. I am told the country rats are healthier, but rats are such a problem now in Barbados, and I was interested to hear what the

hon. member for St. Michael West said, but truly Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that I see more rats, and such terribly vile looking rats, running about in the gutters on the wharf-side and Bay Street than I ever saw when I was a child. Maybe more warehouses are getting into worse condition, but as one word of warning I would like to issue to the Minister before it is assumed that you can put the responsibility for rat control in Bridgetown on other people's shoulders by telling them to zinc line their warehouses, I remember a case in the House of Lords on the question of rats in warehouses. Some people in Liverpool had stored some West African peanuts and they had zinc lining, concrete floors and all sorts of special arrangements so that the doors were flush on the floor and the rats could not get under them, but they had to go to the House of Lords to see which Insurance Company would stand the loss of £250 sterling of peanuts which were put in there and left for quite a short time, about five weeks, and those the rats did not eat they urinated on and the whole shipment had to be dumped. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: This peanut cannot be destroyed like that). I am sure no Barbadian peanuts would be destroyed by rats but by good honest politics.

Perhaps you can tell the people to keep a cat and to concrete the floors, but that is not the end of the problem, the rats will go into the markets and will find themselves living in the Constitution Swamp, you will find them burrowing into the banks, they will become river rats without any encouragement, and they will find somewhere to live when they are driven out of the warehouses. You must have a positive extermination programme as well as a preventive one.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, this is what I have been pointing out. I just drew to the attention of the House the state of the Cheapside Market, but I said that we are approaching it on a comprehensive basis and that we have made representation to certain U.N. organisations for technical assistance for the extermination of rats. When I make an appeal to the keepers of warehouses, so to speak, this is not the only measure to be adopted, it is an island-wide campaign which will be carried out to fight the rat population. I am not in a position to give the House today in detail the things which are to be done, because we still have experts working on the programme. I hope that by the end of the week I will be able to make a statement on the action which will be taken.

Mr. ADAMS: If the Minister is working on a statement, I want him to work on the Public

Health Inspectors as well. I discovered this week, or last week, that I am now a sufferer from this rat business. I have an office in Pinfold Street and I saw an afternoon when I was a little late in my office a large grey rat running from under my law books.

4.30 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: You must use the books.

Mr. ADAMS: I do not use the books, because by now everything is in my head and I do not need them. A large, grey rat had been seen at my office even after I had made representations to the owners of the property. I am not pursuing a personal problem here. Obviously, if I wanted to bring a lawsuit for nuisance, I am fully capable of doing it, but I have made representations to the owners of that property that I have seen rats there. The rats have now left the *Black Star* and are coming over at my office, and I have to put an end to it.

I draw this personal example because the Public Health Inspectors must be involved in this matter. They must be able to look at a burnt building with a lot of derelict beams, some of which cover a basement, perhaps having stagnant water and so on, and have the place cleared. Eyesores like that should not be allowed in Bridgetown by the Sanitation Department. Maybe, I should have drawn the fact that I saw a rat there a year and a half ago to the Public Health Department rather than to the attention of the owners of the property, but I was more concerned with a private remedy at the time. Now that I realise the rats are spreading, I will have to pursue the matter more generally. The Public Health Inspectors should be trained to look not merely for a half of a coconut with a few mosquitoes in it, but they should look for the potentiality of rat-holes and rat-mess. All the bush that grows around buildings in Bridgetown can shelter rats, too.

Sir, if you go into a big city you no longer see open sites with bush growing on them. Where the site is not concreted the owners are made to keep the bush down. Where there is a site in Bridgetown with bush growing through the cracks, then the bush should be sprayed. There are things which will kill any vegetation. Such sites should be sprayed to make them less attractive for rodents to inhabit. In the central city of Bridgetown where you do not have concrete, then you should have neatly kept grass and there should be no bush growing up for things to live in and give us trouble at the present time.

Now, the Minister said that this is a three-pronged attack by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health. It is the Minister of Agriculture who is going to make the statement, I gather, at the week-end I very much hope that this does not mean that, despite the brave words in here about the elimination of the city rat, it is only the country rat which is going to come under the scope of this analysis.

Hon. A. DaC EDWARDS: On a point of explanation, Sir. It was clearly pointed out that the Ministry of Communications was responsible for the renovation of the building and the construction of the laboratory within the building, but there is a Committee which works between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture. The hon. member will remember that a few weeks ago a seminar was held at the old Hospital site in the section which is used by the Public Health Department. At this seminar we had representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health as well as three or four United Nations Experts. It was a Leptospirosis seminar, and it was at that time it was drawn to the Government's attention by Dr. Papp, who carried out a survey on the incidence of Brucellosis, that certain things should be done. The Ministry of Health will confine its work to the urban area, and the Ministry of Agriculture will take care of the other areas. The work will be co-ordinated between the two Ministries. We are there to protect agriculture which is carried on outside of the urban area. As you are aware, rat control generally comes under the Ministry of Agriculture. Every year during the discussion of the Estimates the Minister of Agriculture comes here and asks for a certain sum of money to acquire rat bait, and we have an arm of the Ministry which deals with rat bait and so on. However, the health aspect of the matter will have to be taken care of by the Ministry of Health, since we have had something like twelve or fourteen deaths out of 72 cases last year.

Now, the whole point is that, not having the laboratories to diagnose Leptospirosis, it is felt by the Health Authorities that some of the patients who have been treated by doctors for what they thought was jaundice or some other disease, if the disease was properly diagnosed and laboratory tests carried out, we may find that the incidence of Leptospirosis was greater. That is why we have co-ordination between the two Ministries. It is not a question of the Ministry of Agriculture trying to get rid of the rats in the country districts and the rats are running into town. The position is that the problem will be attacked by joint effort.

Now, the reason why there must be co-ordination between the two Ministries is that, although the Public Health Inspectors are not responsible for the eradication of rats in the country districts, they still have to see that proper health standards are maintained in the country districts. It will be noted that certain Health Regulations were made under the Health Services Act in order to improve health standards in all shops, restaurants, and so on. It is a sort of co-ordinated effort and not necessarily a unilateral one.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear that. What I was talking about in my comment was the Minister's statement that civil servants will sit down and argue over who should clear the squatters from the market. I very much hope that they will not sit down and argue over who should clear the rats. We have heard all about the rats, and the members of the Opposition are going to reserve judgment in this matter. If the Government is going to get rid of the rats in Barbados or to bring them down to manageable proportions, again, it will be a debt of gratitude owed by all citizens in the Island. If talk alone could do it, I know that the rats would have been gone. If rats lived under stones, then the speeches of the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Communications would have got rid of them by now. I think the Minister of Education left no stone unturned three times in his speech and the Minister of Agriculture twice, but rats do not only live under stones, Sir, they live in other places as well and words alone will not move them.. Do something about the matter and have a big Public Health Drive! All sorts of things have been cleared from Barbados in the past.

Hon. A. DaC EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. We have just stated what we are doing. Why tell us to do something about the matter? We have come here to ask for money to establish a laboratory. We are coming back later for money to spend on a rat extermination campaign, but we can only do that when we have the proper equipment. About four years ago we were told that a comprehensive campaign to exterminate rats in Barbados would cost \$¼M. Whatever is the cost of it, we are coming back here to ask for money to spend on rat extermination. I do not think it is fair for the hon. member to say, "Do something about it."

4.40 p.m.

We are now doing something about it and the fact that we have not brought in the owl does not mean we are not doing something.

Mr. ADAMS: These things will come out. That was a real phony point of order, Mr. Chairman. That was his fourth speech. The Minister has now said that two years ago for \$¼ million they could have had a rat extermination programme. That is what we mean by "do something about it now". Two years ago for \$¼ million you could have had a rat extermination programme, and it has been allowed to stay for two years and for one-third of what C.B.C. is losing....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, that is not fair. The hon. member will learn how Government operates about twenty years from now if and when he gets there; but the whole point is that you may get somebody coming down from a United Nations Foundation or something of the sort and he goes back and writes a report. There are certain things embodied in the report which have got to be discussed by your technical bodies. Suppose in the report you are advised that you have to approach P.A.H.O, W.H.O. or U.N.D.P. for the funds and for technical advice, all these things take time. You put something in this year's programme and you may not get it under the next two years from these bodies, and what I am trying to point out is that two years ago we were trying to get the type of advice, we have read the reports, and now we are going ahead. All I am telling the hon. member is that positive steps are taken to get rid of the rats as a result of advice, or surveys, which were carried out by experts who came in to advise on it. This is as a result of the advice we have got from experts. I told you that Dr. Papp, for example, who is stationed here or in the Caribbean area to advice on things like leptospirosis, has made many visits and up to last week he was in the Ministry, and he is the person who has prepared the programme and left it in the Ministry to be dealt with. It gets to my desk tomorrow morning, and that is why I said I would be able to tell the country what the programme would be like by week-end. Positive steps are being taken as a result of the surveys carried out; so you cannot say that nothing has been done, because a survey has been carried out.

Mr. ADAMS: I must confess, Mr. Chairman, that that is a point of order that also defeats me. All I know is what I heard the Minister say. I repeat that the money that has gone down the drain at C.B.C. would kill the rats in Barbados three times over if what the Minister says is right, and I repeat it as a quite deliberate statement. The last \$¾ million at C.B.C. according to what the Minister said would have killed the rats in Barbados three times over. I leave it at that.

I would say we do not only want words, we do not only want no stone left unturned and every avenue explored, we do not only want careful attention to the advice of experts, we do not only want Governments operating this way; he says that some day I will learn how Governments operate; some day they on that side will learn how Governments should operate. That is the difference. And I see that the hon. member for St. Michael—West agrees with me by his pleasant smile.

Mr. Chairman, we welcome such initiative as the Government, however belatedly, and the Minister, have promised us, and as I have said, we reserve our final views until we see what has happened.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture in outlining the reasons for the setting up of this laboratory seems to have opened at this stage a section of my life which I was hoping to open when the Estimates came around, because I have been saying before and I am going to say now for the benefit of the House that probably after now and after the Estimates the few friends which I still hold in this country will no longer be my friends, because I am going to speak clearly and plainly on that occasion.

Mr. Chairman, I am one who is very happy to see that an animal, they call it veterinary, diagnostic laboratory will be set up in this country, but I would hope very much that the Minister will see to it, and I am going to ask him because I am going to back him, that he takes no longer the advice of the so-called technocrats who are now advising him. I say openly that I have shot the first shot from this gun and I am going to tell the House today why, because the balance will come during the Estimates. The first point, Mr. Chairman, is that the laboratory must serve the purpose in the community for which it is set up. The building is going to cost \$42,940, and they are going to come back for a sum of money to staff it and also to provide equipment. It is no good setting up that laboratory to investigate one or two diseases. The Minister of Agriculture knows fully well that this country is spending some \$42 million on imported foodstuff. I am of the firm opinion that we can save probably half of that sum.

When we come to the diseases now, we have to go a bit further. This country is riddled with tits and according to my information they are of two or three different strains. Nobody has yet come out and told the government that it is time that we have an active investigation of the tit

infestation in this country, and I would like the Minister to know that unless he is going to have a laboratory of this sort and make it into a proper laboratory to investigate all the diseases and all the viruses affecting the agricultural development of this country, soon we are going to find this will come to a sudden end and that is the end of the money.

The Minister went on to speak about leptospirosis and how it is affecting human beings. I can tell the Minister now of at least two business places in Bridgetown which persist in mixing what they call pig feed, and this is where the Public Health Authorities will come in for lashes. You go into one of these warehouses and you will see that the rats have bitten bags of cornmeal, flower and scratch grain, and they employ gangs of men to sweep it off the floor and then mix them up as pig feed. They are carrying the disease out of the warehouses, feeding it into the animals and spreading the disease time after time. It is time that something drastic be done about this whole thing. I have spoken about it already particularly to one man who persists in doing it and he tells me that he must make back his profit somehow. This is why I say I will have few friends after I finish this session.

Let us move quickly because the Leader of the Opposition has had quite a long say on this. When we were dealing with a Resolution to vote money for the independence celebrations, I raised the question of the creation of a native market. The Minister of Agriculture spoke about people who sit outside the bus-stand and the alleys around here. It is my considered opinion, Mr. Chairman, that if you create what is called a native market, you will find that the very people who now frequent the portion outside the established market next to the bus-stand and who go on the Bridge or in the alley above C. F. Harrison and those places would be forced to go into the native market, because those are what you call itinerant vendors. They grow two tomatoes, some cassava, etc. in the country, and they come to town with a licence they have bought for sixty cents, a pair of scales....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I would like the hon. member to repeat what he has just said. Am I to understand that he is saying that the people I spoke of, the squatters over in Fairchild Street, are the people who grow their tomatoes and come into town, and that they qualify as native marketers?

4.50 p.m.

Mr. BOLDEN: I said they are what I call itinerant vendors because they are people who

buy a licence for 60 cents, they grow their own tomatoes, etc., they come into town perhaps one or two times a week, they have not got a stall in the market and they sit down any place and sell. As long as they have a pair of scales which has been inspected by the proper authority and a licence they are entitled to sell any place, so there cannot be any precise rule as to who should clean where. If you bring the necessary legislation whereby these people are forced to go into that market, then you have a perfect control over them but at the moment you have no control.

Let us go a bit further and move into the question of the owl. Mr. Chairman, looking through the agricultural prospects for the next five or ten years in this country, I realise that Barbados is suffering a great deal from loss due not only to rats, but what I am going to say is going to raise hairs on a lot of people's heads, but we are suffering a lot of damage to food crops by sparrows and blackbirds, and I have started to collect sufficient data to give to the Minister and to bring before this House asking for the introduction in this country either of the owls and/or sparrow hawks. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture says he has to listen to his technical staff but we are operating under an old Act of Parliament dated some time between 1935 and 1937 which prohibited the importation of birds from south of Barbados and would include Trinidad, Guyana, Venezuela and those territories because they said in those days they brought in fowl pests, but Mr. Chairman, the big joke about it now is that the technocrats have been hiding behind this legislation and have not taken one minute to investigate the realities of the legislation in the light of that era and in the light of this era, but the Hon. Minister of Tourism can tell you that when the two parrots were brought back from Expo' 67 in Canada they were brought back into Barbados; since then the Ministry has been given permission to bring in parrots.

As long as I live I will never believe a word coming out of the mouth of Mr. Coleridge Pilgrim because in my opinion he should be put in a barrel and shipped out to sea.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member ought to withdraw that sort of remark. It is unfortunate that the hon. member of whom we thought better would try to take the opportunity to come in here to attack a defenceless person, a person who cannot come in here and reply to him. I think that if the hon. member wants to attack somebody he should attack me because I will be responsible for the action of the Officers

working under me, but I do not think the hon. member ought to be personal, I do not think it is fair to the Civil Servant for anybody to come in here and attack him, I think it is going to the lowest plain to come in here and call the name of a Civil Servant and say he is inefficient in his job, a man who is qualified. If the man was not qualified for the job he would not have been given the job. He was not given a political appointment where they can say we gave this appointment to our friend, he was appointed by the Public Service Commission of this country, and I am saying that whilst the hon. member is calling the Officer's name, and is trying to pull him down to the lowest ebb, there are other countries asking for this same Officer. We have had to go on our knees and beg the Officer to remain when the University of the West Indies wanted him; the man is one of the most efficient and most highly qualified Officers in that Ministry today, and it is not fair for any of us, even the hon. member for St. Joseph, to come here to say these things about the Officer.

If you want to say that Officers in the Ministry are inefficient say so, but it is unfair to come here to call the name of a particular Officer when the Officer cannot come here and defend himself. Say what you like about me, my back is broad, I can take it and I can reply to you and lash you when I have to lash you, but the particular Officer whose name you called cannot come in here and defend himself, and it is unfair, it is unethical for any member to come in here and treat a Civil Servant in the manner in which the hon. member has done it. I think he would understand what I am trying to say, and I think that many of us make mistakes, we say things sometimes and it is not always right to say what you think personally. I am not asking you, Mr. Chairman, to call on the hon. member to withdraw it, but I think that the hon. member in fairness to the Officer ought to withdraw those remarks. (Hon. P. G. MORGAN: It is cowardly).

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, may I go ahead? If you want to hear about cowardice I will talk now. I came back to this country and asked for a permit to bring certain sheep into the country, and I know the technocrats advised the Minister that I should not be allowed to bring them in. I have nothing personal against anybody in this country, I am dealing with the agricultural aspect of this, I am telling the Minister that they told me certain things about my bringing certain sheep into this country and he says he must accept the advice of his technocrats, I am not being unfair to him.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If the hon. member would give way, on the question of the

sheep the hon. member mentioned, it was not a question of danger, it was not a question of disease, the Ministry of Agriculture had a policy that they were trying to establish the black belly sheep which the country had a market for and it was a question of policy, it was not that the sheep brought in a disease, it was not for health reasons, it was a question of policy. If the Ministry of Agriculture has a policy which is passed down to the Officers to carry out they cannot depart from that policy without the approval of the policy maker who is the Minister. The hon. member discussed it with me and I told him that I would allow them to come in. The vet could not allow the sheep to come in without the approval of the policy maker and I instructed the vet to allow the sheep to come in.

5.00 p.m.

He spoke of the yield from the sheep, the weight of the sheep, and the rate of return from the sheep, and I issued instructions to let the sheep come in. If Tom, Dick or Harry wanted to bring in the same kind of sheep tomorrow the officer responsible has authority to issue a permit. Do not talk about people who cannot defend themselves here.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, if the Hon. Minister finds himself in difficulties, I will leave the matter until the Estimates come before the House for consideration. If the Hon. Minister says that it is a question of policy, he must also tell this Committee that, it is after I pointed out to him that they had refused me permission to bring them in and I told him where there were sheep in this country being crossbred and mixed with the same Black Belly Sheep, he made enquiries and found out for himself. There was no question of policy, because they denied me the right to bring in the sheep.

If the Minister wants to talk about being cowardly, I can talk about being cowardly. I went at W. E. Julien, the so-called Grenadian millionaire at Bentley, and found that he had brought in sheep weeks in advance of me; let us talk about who are cowards now. This is why I say that when the Estimates are finished I will have very few friends. There are lots of things that I know and I am prepared to talk about them when the Estimates come before this House. It is not a question of being a coward. I am merely showing that the very technocrats have a double policy. The Minister says that he is not unapproachable, and I agree with that.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister said that I had a problem and I spoke to him about it. That is true. We are suffering for food in this country; I

applied for a permit to bring in 20,000 tomato plants, and the technocrats denied me the right to bring them in. I appealed to the Minister, and he was good enough to call a meeting where we could discuss the matter. I put forward my grounds, and the technocrat advised the Minister that he should not allow me to bring in 20,000 tomato plants. They said they did not have the technical facilities to test them for viruses and diseases. However, in December tomatoes were brought here and sold at \$1.50 per pound.

Mr. Chairman, let me show you how all of this ties in. They talk about getting rid of rats, but the Hon. Minister of Health will tell you that the regular places to find rats are in the holds of schooners, round the wharf, and at the bottom of ships. Permits were issued by the Agricultural Department to bring in those tomatoes. When the ship brought in the tomatoes they had to be put on the wharf, and then they had to be placed in bond houses before they were brought out and sold. With regard to the co-ordination between the Ministries, I told the Minister that if his technocrats were giving him trouble, then he must come out and say so. It is time that we decide that, if we want to be progressive in this community, we must not be hampered by indecisiveness, or the double-talk or the double-dealing of so-called technocrats. I am prepared to back anybody who, in my opinion, is standing up for justice and order or rightness. The Minister himself admitted that the technocrats gave — he said that they gave the Opposition certain information which was not given to the Minister or made available to the Ministry. I do not know which Ministry.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I like to be quoted correctly. I said that during the discussion on the Estimates a member of the Opposition called me from over here to that side and showed me typewritten documents which were purported to have been taken from certain Ministries and handed to the Opposition, when in truth and in fact the members on this side had different information. The hon. member for St. James called me and showed me the documents. He said: "These people think that we take them seriously when they do those things, but the same thing they do to you they will do to us." I did not say the Member for St. Peter.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, How strange it is that the Hon. Minister seizes upon an opportunity when the hon. member for St. James is not in his place to accuse him of such conduct?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us carry on.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the Ministers do not know where they are.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, as I was saying, I quite understand the difficulty the Hon. Minister is undergoing. There is one other matter I would like to raise, and I believe it concerns mostly the Ministry of Health. There has been a campaign going on for some time now where men go to houses looking for water around the place and treat the water, I understand, for mosquitoes. This relates to the same problem as rats. If you have an abundance of mosquitoes and an abundance of rats and you want to exterminate them — I remember precisely that a chap came to my house. I told him that there was a hole at the end of my land a part of which was on my boundary and the other part was on another person's boundary. He had a big can of liquid which he was using to treat the water. I asked him to leave some of the liquid with me to treat the tins and bottles in the bottom of the hole, and he said he could not do that.

Mr. Chairman, what surprised me about the matter is that it was nothing to drink; it was nothing which would enhance my personality or, say, the next man's pocket or anything like that. Here is a case where one wants to help exterminate the mosquitoes or the rats, and an officer who is sent around to do the job will tell a man that he cannot give him some of the liquid to treat dirty water in bottles or in tins.

Now, the Minister says that it is going to cost \$¼M to exterminate the rats, and he is asking for the co-operation of the entire country in this exercise with which I agree. I hope that when the programme is set in motion that there will be some method whereby persons interested in this exercise will be able to collect whatever is given to exterminate the rats instead of waiting for an officer to come around to do the job. There should be some method whereby the owners of plantations who live in the remote parts of the country will be able to collect whatever is given out. There is no doubt about it that we are still living in a country where you will find five or six houses in a cart road that bends down and comes up.

5.10 p.m.

The officer might go on a day when it is raining and he is going to be afraid to fall while slipping down the hole and dirty his nice tweed pants.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: If the hon. member would give way, we came here just on

the principle of establishing a laboratory. When the campaign gets going, the hon. member will have an opportunity to discuss the details, because we would have to come for money to carry out the campaign. I wonder if at this stage what the hon. member is saying is salient or whether he should not wait until we come to discuss the proposals for the extermination, and if in the proposals there are shortcomings, I am wondering if it would not be more expedient at that time to propound the gospel which is being propounded rather than discussing it now. It is not a criticism; it is just a suggestion.

Mr. BOLDEN: I would hate very much to think that the hon. member is being indoctrinated into the method of double dealing in talking because in the beginning he said that neither you, Mr. Chairman, the Speaker or anybody would stop him from laying the foundation for what he has to say.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I am just making a suggestion. It is a question of whether what the hon. member is saying can be more appropriately dealt with when we come to the details of the programme rather than on the question of the establishment of the laboratory. The hon. member will have noted that I refrained from going into details of the programme, but I said that a statement would be made later. I also intimated that we will have to come for funds to carry on the programme, and that is why I felt he should hold his fire for that aspect of it.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I am still going back to this point. Going back to the initial setting up of the laboratory, I think the Minister of Communications and Works said that they were going to convert some feed room or something of this nature. I would like to find out how soon they hope to have these facilities set up and whether this is only to deal with these two diseases of Leptospirosis and Brucellosis, or whether they are going to take in a full animal unit. There is certain other information which I will not burden the Minister with at this time, but I am sure when I discuss it with him, he will see how relevant it is in our present situation.

Mr. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, so well known to man is the damage caused by rats. We have heard in this Chamber this afternoon about all kinds of rats. We have heard about experts and things of that nature, but there is one kind of rat which we have not heard about and which the experts do not know anything about in Barbados. There is such a thing as a mongoose-rat. The mongoose was brought to Barbados to eliminate rats. In actual fact in my

amateurish opinion the mongoose has been able to mate with the rat and produce a rat which the Leader of the Opposition referred to in his room in James Street, and that big rat which he saw is actually a mongoose-rat. Now we find that the mongoose and the rat have been able to make friends and live together. In like manner the monkey and the dog have done this. As a matter of fact, the monkey is now saying that he would walk the streets as a man had not for the little boys, because the dogs do not worry him again. But it seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that the only persons who are divided on this earth are mankind. Mankind is still at war with each other; they are not able to come together at any time, and I think that if we took the motto from the mongoose and the monkey in dealing with the dog and rat, we would make a concerted effort this afternoon and support this Resolution, because it is in a Chamber like this that we hope to have all the cooperation necessary on both sides of the House, it is in here that the opinion of the House is felt and gauged, and we would like to think that when we have this kind of programme about to begin, something which threatens the life of every man in this country, something which threatens poor people mostly because poor people are beset by most of these rat problems, full cooperation is given by every member.

In thinking about poor people, I think that the onus in this respect in the country districts falls on the Health Inspectors, because, Mr. Chairman, as you will agree, cleanliness is next to Godliness, and if we can encourage people to keep their back-yards clean and stop keeping litter about the place and providing food for these rats, then we will be on the road to getting something done. It is not only in the back-yards of poor people that we find this kind of thing, because there are some big houses too which have dirty back-yards; so I am not thinking about poor people alone when I think of dirty back-yards. I think that individuals in the community can fight the rats as well as the Government, and a concerted action by individuals can go a long way in reducing the incidence of rat progression, because as you know, Mr. Chairman, rats multiply in geometrical progression. One rat produces two rats, two rats produce four and so on; so if each member of the community would see to it that his premises are kept clean and sanitation is kept at a very high level, and the inspectors would see to it that people do not keep dirty premises, then this would also help the drive which the Government is about to begin.

Mr. Chairman, I think we should welcome this laboratory because it is now affecting our cattle as well as human beings, and it is high time

that something is done. I very much welcome this approach by the Ministries of Agriculture and Health assisted by the Ministry of Communications and Works to get this thing off the ground. I believe when the time comes for the actual setting up of this lab and we have to expand the programme that we will have more time and a better occasion to debate this matter in full, and, Mr. Chairman, I shall not waste any more of your time. I would like to give my support to this aspect of the Resolution.

Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, this afternoon we have made pretty heavy weather of this Resolution dealing with the erection of a laboratory. A lot has been said, but there are a couple of points I would like to stress here from the medical point of view. To me the erection of this Lab has two interesting facets; (1) health importance and (2) economic importance; and as a person who has been practising medicine in Barbados, I am well aware of the high incidence of leptospirosis in Barbados. One of the characteristic features of leptospirosis is jaundice. It is a disease which affects the liver primarily and when the liver becomes affected you find there is an accumulation of certain pigments in the system giving rise to the pigmentation which is generally described as jaundice.

Rats all over the world are reservoirs of the spirochete which is responsible for this disease referred to as leptospirosis, and rats are very versatile animals and it is very difficult to rid yourself of rats. Whatever you try to do it has been found over and over again that the rat has been able to devise ways and means to overcome any efforts directed at his extermination.

5.20 p.m.

We have known that rats can gnaw metal, and regarding the identification of the disease, one will have to look forward that some sort of improvement can be had when it comes to indentifying this disease among the people of Barbados. Rats are multiplying for a number of reasons, some of the reasons lie in the inadequate disposal of your rubbish and other refuse about the country. When we travel about Barbados we can see food of all types being strewn about in heaps, and the contents of the refuse have improved somewhat over the years. There was a time when refuse only contained waste paper but nowadays you see chicken legs, cans which contained processed foods and sometimes you even find prepared food which people might have found too much to consume, and in so doing you are providing food for rats. Another reason is that the natural enemies of rats have been on the

decrease and one wonders what might be done to restore the ecology of Barbados so that some balance might be restored. Be that as it may, I am concerned with the disease, because as I said earlier it is a very bad disease and not enough importance has been attached to it in the past.

One can think in terms of the type of information which very often Ministers get in the normal routine of administration to make them fully aware of the type of problems we have in this country. The establishment of a laboratory has taken a very long time to come, but now that it has come we have to take it as an indication that this Government is concerned not only with the health of the people of this country but also that of the animals because these animals are also very important. This Government is concerned with agricultural diversification in Barbados, and it is only right that greater emphasis be placed on things like a veterinary laboratory in Barbados which would ensure that it would suit the needs of the people of Barbados. If this is not done the efforts at agricultural diversification are going to produce very little benefit to the people of the country. There is also the question of heavy imports into this country, and this is serious economically because we have to look at the values coming in with imports compared with the values for exports and you will find there is a very sharp rise in costs out of favour of Barbados. There ought to be more importance attached to the success of agricultural diversification in this country and also the success of animal husbandry in Barbados. That is why I am here to add my bit to the discussion, and I feel that not only the laboratory should be erected, but on the other hand at this particular stage such adequate steps should be taken to ensure that the type of personnel required to work in this laboratory is found to carry out these functions which the building has been set up for. The erection of the laboratory ties in with the policy of the present Government to make agricultural diversification very successful in this country; it will go a far way in assisting doctors, because we have to deal with human beings that have got the disease and they get the disease as a result of rats contaminating foodstuffs either in bonds or in the fields. When the urine and the faeces of the rats contaminate foodstuffs and the foodstuffs are taken by people and they do not receive the proper treatment or the rats are not destroyed, human beings very often get this disease because the organism gets into their system. We have very often to make sure that the Barbadian public is well aware of the importance from the health point of view and also from the economic point of view of leptospirosis in the country and the rats in the country. If we do not get adequate

public instruction on this aspect we are going to find that in the long run our efforts to eradicate the rats in Barbados are not going to be as successful as they could be, and we can only get the cooperation of the Barbadian public if the Barbadian public is well educated about the problem and about the importance of the eradication of the rats.

I would like to stress that not only the erection of a laboratory is necessary at this stage but I think also to see that a training programme is carried out to make sure that Health Inspectors are more aware of the importance of the disease of the rats infected and also to make the Barbadian public far more knowledgeable about the disease and what efforts are being made to eradicate the carriers of this disease. When this is started, the education of the Public Health Inspectors on one side and that of the general public on the other, the Government is going to meet with a lot of obstacles which can be eradicated by a proper programme in education.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I can only give this House the assurance, now that the Resolution is about to be passed, as the Minister responsible for the conversion of this building into a laboratory, I shall give it utmost priority and it pleases me to see the degree of unanimity on the establishment of this laboratory especially from the point of view of the Opposition, because under this Government no child has ever been attacked and almost mangled in the hospital by rats, so it is good to find that even at this late hour they are prepared now to come around to the danger of rats not only to adults but also to children.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, how many children died of Leptospirosis under the Labour Party Government?

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, old people in the District Hospitals are bitten by rats under the present Government, let the Minister deny this.
5.30 p.m.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shall not be too long. I introduced this Resolution, and I can... (Mr. HINDS: "Old people in the District Hospitals have been bitten by rats. Tell us something about that.") I knew that would have set them off, but I think that they know as well as I do the fire which the Minister of Health in their Government came under when a child in the Hospital was bitten by a rat. There has not been similar evidence under this Government that children have been bitten by rats; it is purely speculation. People die from Leptospirosis, and

they died like flies during the Labour Party's time. Nobody is saying that they do not die.

Mr. BOLDEN: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, he was a member of the Labour Party at the time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I was not a member of the Labour Party at the time. I left the Labour Party in 1955 and was the first Chairman of the Democratic Labour Party. I was not in the Party when the Hon. Freddie Miller was a Minister. (*Asides.*) Anyhow, I do not want to rub salt on sores, but do not get up and suggest that this Government is not doing its best when you know that following the scandal in your Government, because the child had been bitten in the General Hospital, we were alerted to the danger of rats. We have been taking steps all the time to try to stop a similar scandal on our Government. That is why we have come here today to ask for money.

Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased with the unanimity existing at the moment. We will take suggestions made by the...

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is most unfair to us. He was not in the House when we said that, after the rats and the children in the General Hospital, we decided to build a new Hospital so that that could no longer happen. There are still rats in the same Hospital compound over which he, as the Minister of Communications and Works, has the ultimate responsibility.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Just imagine it would take a child being bitten for them to build a hospital of the magnitude of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital! The hon. member for St. Thomas could not be serious about that. Is it as a result of a child being bitten that you built the Queen Elizabeth Hospital? Would you seriously tell the public of Barbados that? Are you saying that you built a Hospital costing millions of dollars because...

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. It was built as a result of the dissatisfaction with conditions at the old Hospital. He knows that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I have had sufficient argument relative to this Resolution, and the Resolution will be put. There will be no more argument from either side.

The question that a Resolution for the sum of \$42,940 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution be now read a first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution be now read a second time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today, subject to the undertaking which was made earlier. So far as Private Members' Business is concerned, unless I have some indication from the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues, I will adjourn at this stage until Tuesday next week at 2.30 p.m.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 25th January, 1972, at 2.30 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, speaking on the motion for adjournment, there is a...